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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Australia, Canada* and Norway: draft resolution

Mainstreaming the human rights of women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling all relevant resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, in which, inter alia, the Assembly endorsed the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1/

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which emphasizes that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and stresses that these rights should be integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities, and noting that according to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, steps should be taken to increase cooperation and promote further integration of objectives and goals between the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1.

2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

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United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations bodies,

Recalling that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 3/ is a key international human rights instrument for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, and acknowledging both its codifying and innovating functions,

Noting the important roles that the Commission on the Status of women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have to play in making the general human rights work of the United Nations more gender conscious and in promoting the universal and indivisible human rights of women,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 4/ and recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/45 of 4 March 1994, 5/ in which the Commission decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and its consequences, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/85 of 8 March 1995 on the elimination of violence against women, 6/

1. Stresses the need to intensify efforts of cooperation and coordination to ensure that the equal status and the human rights of all women and the girl child are integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and are addressed regularly and systematically in relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

2. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the extent to which violations of women's human rights have been addressed by human rights mechanisms, 7/ and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

3. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of women and the Centre for Human Rights 8/ to improve cooperation between the Division and the Centre as an element in mainstreaming the human rights of women;

4. Takes note of the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1995/86 of 8 March 1995, 6/ that the special rapporteurs,

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3/ General Assembly resolution 34/180.

4/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 3 (E/1995/23), chap. II, sect. A.

7/ E/CN.6/1996/9.

8/ E/CN.6/1996/13.

representatives, experts and chairpersons of the working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, in future meetings on enhancing cooperation and exchange of information, address violations of the human rights of women;

5. Recalls that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1994/45, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences were brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women to assist the Commission in its work in the area of violence against women;

6. Notes General Assembly resolution 50/170 of 22 December 1995, in which the Assembly welcomed the emphasis by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate;

7. Encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women to provide any relevant material it receives or prepares, through the Centre for Human Rights, for the information of the treaty bodies in their work;

8. Encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women to continue to develop methodologies to analyse gender perspectives in the reports of the States parties that are being considered by the treaty bodies;

9. Encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences through the automatic and regular exchange of information and by forwarding expeditiously any relevant material it receives or prepares on violence against women;

10. Emphasizes the need to develop and enhance the role of focal points on the human rights of women, in both the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women, and to ensure cooperation and coordination between the two bodies on an ongoing basis;

11. Encourages the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights to explore the possibility of providing training in the human rights of women and of training personnel in the Division for the Advancement of Women in general human rights matters;

12. Encourages the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the mandate established by General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to promote and protect the human rights of women, including his efforts to coordinate the activities of relevant United Nations organs, bodies and mechanisms dealing with human rights in considering violations of the human rights of women;

13. Emphasizes the need for all relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to include information on gender-based human rights violations in their activities and integrate the findings into all of their programmes and activities;

14. Urges States to consider the gender composition of the treaty bodies when nominating and electing candidates to such bodies;

15. Emphasizes the need for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education to incorporate a gender perspective into all its activities and the importance of drafting the mid-Decade report and the final report on the Decade so as to include mainstreaming of the human rights of women, ensuring that the evaluation criteria of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for those reports include whether the human rights of women are a mainstream concern;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session, in 1997, on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to remain seized of the matter and, in particular, to examine at its forty-first session the progress made and the plans developed.